

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 18 has been amended to correct an informality and claims 19 and 20 have been added herein. This Response, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated April 20, 2009, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cahill et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0099574 A1; henceforth “Cahill”), and further in view of Panico (U.S. Publication 2003/0162536 A1), and further in view of Heinrich (U.S. Patent 3,446,278). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1 and 15

Claim 1 recites:

A camping facility reservation method, for making a camping facility reservation, comprising:

storing respective camping pad attribute information for camping pads of a camping facility;

storing camping vehicle attribute information for a given camping vehicle;

obtaining reservation request information concerning the camping facility and the given camping vehicle; and

providing an indication of one or more candidate camping pads based on the respective camping pad attribute information of the camping pads of the camping facility and the camping vehicle attributes for the given camping vehicle,

wherein the camping pad attribute information includes information regarding the location and availability of at least one of water and sewer connections on the camping pad.

As previously submitted, an exemplary method consistent with claim 1 involves reserving camping pads by storing information about both respective pads and camping vehicles,

receiving (obtaining) reservation information regarding a camping facility and a particular vehicle, and identifying candidate camping pads based on the stored information and the attributes of the particular vehicle. Further, in the exemplary method one type of information stored and taken into consideration when a pad is matched to a particular vehicle includes the location and availability of either water or sewer line connections on the camping pad. More specifically, in the exemplary method consistent with this claim, the location and availability of water or sewer connections on the camping pad are taken into consideration when matching a particular camping pad to a particular camping vehicle.

In rejecting this claim, the Examiner asserts that the combination of Cahill and Panico teaches facilitating the reservation of a camping facility by taking into account vehicle attributes. However, the Examiner acknowledges that neither Cahill nor Panico teach camping pad attribute information including information regarding the location and availability of at least one of water and sewer connections. Instead, the Examiner asserts that Heinrich cures this deficiency. Applicant submits that the Examiner has misconstrued the applied references.

As Applicant has discussed in the previous responses, both Panico and Cahill are directed to systems for discovering, reserving and transferring parking spaces and provide no teachings regarding using the systems for reserving camping pads. Further, reserving camping pads is fundamentally different from reserving parking spaces.

Specifically, camping pads are, by definition, designed to be camped upon and thus provides facilities to allow a user to set up a camping vehicle and live therein, with many of the amenities of a house, for a period of time. Conversely, as would be apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art, parking spaces are designed to allow the storage of a vehicle while a user is elsewhere. Thus, systems designed for allocating and reserving parking spaces do not take

into consideration unique factors associated with camping pads, nor is there any motivation to modify a system directed to parking spaces, to take these factors into consideration.

Cahill and Panico do not teach taking into consideration the unique factors associated with camping vehicles and camping pads, when identifying candidate camping pads for a specified vehicle. Further, claim 1 explicitly states “the camping pad attribute information includes information regarding the location and availability of at least one of water and sewer connections on the camping pad”. As discussed above, an exemplary embodiment of claim 1 clearly requires taking into consideration **the location and availability of at least one of water and sewer connections on the camping pad**. The Examiner acknowledges that neither Cahill, nor Panico teach **taking into consideration the location and availability of water and/or sewage connections in assigning the camping pads**, and cites Heinrich to cure the deficiency.

Applicant submits that Heinrich does not cure these deficiencies of Cahill and Panico. Heinrich is directed to a flexible fluid connection suitable for use in connecting trailers to a water source, which might include a connection for a trailer. At best Heinrich teaches that trailers can have a flexible connection to allow for quick and easy connection to a water source. *See* Col. 1, lines 30-37. However, Heinrich provides no teachings regarding the location and availability of water or sewer connections being important to setting up a camping vehicle on a camping pad, nor does Heinrich provide any teachings regarding identifying a candidate camping pad. Thus, Applicant submits that Heinrich does not teach **taking into consideration the location and availability of water or sewer connections on a camping pad**, when identifying a candidate camping pad for reservation as claimed.

Further, Applicant also submits that as Cahill and Panico are directed to parking spaces, which are used to store vehicles while the user is elsewhere, there is no motivation to modify

Cahill and Panico as suggested by the Examiner because information regarding the location and availability of water or sewer connection is irrelevant to storing a vehicle. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not modify the systems of Cahill and Panico to take into consideration the location and availability of sewer or water connections as asserted by the Examiner because this information is not important to identifying and reserving parking spaces, as people merely store their vehicles in parking spaces.

In summary, Cahill and Panico at best describe systems for assigning and transferring parking spaces, which are designed to store a vehicle when a user is elsewhere. Conversely, the present claims are directed to a system of reserving camping pads, which are designed for a person to be able to live on with a camping vehicle. Thus, the systems of Cahill and Panico fail to take into consideration the unique features required for camping pad reservation systems as claimed. Further, the applied Heinrich reference fails to cure the Examiner's acknowledged deficiencies regarding the location and availability of water or sewer connections. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 and all claims dependant thereon, are patentable over the applied references.

Further, to the extent that claims 4 and 15 recite features similar to those discussed above, Applicant would also submit that claims 4 and 15 and all claims dependant thereon are patentable for analogous reasons.

Claims 2 and 18

Claim 2 recites "wherein the camping vehicle attribute information comprises one or more of: tip-out portion particulars, wherein the tip-out portion particulars includes information on location and dimensions of the tip-out portions; location of connections for hook-ups on the camping vehicle; and tolerance for slopes." In other words, in the exemplary method according

to this claim, the location and dimensions of tip-out portions located on the vehicle or the location of connection hook-ups is taken into consideration when identifying candidate camping pads.

In rejecting this claim, the Examiner asserts that the Cahill and Panico references teach taking into consideration vehicle geometry. Again, the Examiner has misconstrued the applied references. As discussed above, Cahill and Panico merely teach assigning and reserving parking spaces, which store vehicles while a user is elsewhere. Cahill and Panico does not provide any teachings related to camping pads. Further, Cahill and Panico also provide no teachings regarding vehicles having tip-out portions, nor do they teach taking the location and dimensions of such tip-out portions into consideration when identifying camping pads to be reserved. Heinrich does not cure any of these deficiencies. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 2 is also patentable for these additional reasons. Further, to the extent that claim 18 recites similar features, Applicant would submit that claim 18 is patentable for analogous reasons.

Claim 13

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cahill et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0099574 A1), and further in view of Panico (U.S. Publication 2003/0162536 A1), and further in view of Heinrich (U.S. Patent 3,446,278), and further in view of Inokuchi (U.S. Publication 2004/0080510 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection..

Claim 13 depends from claim 1, which has been shown above to be patentable over the above discussed references. Inokuchi does not cure the deficiencies of the other references. Therefore, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Newly Added Claims

Applicant notes that in the previously filed response, Applicant amended claim 1 because the Examiner indicated the amendments would overcome the applied references and result in either the allowance of the case or alternatively the citation of new references, more applicable to the claimed subject matter. However, the Examiner has merely cited an additional reference to teach the new feature and has continued to apply the references previously cited despite the distinctions between camping pads and parking spaces discussed above.

Therefore, Applicant has added independent claim 19, which recites the subject matter of claim 1 as pending prior to the previously filed response. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is patentable for reasons analogous to those discussed above. Further, Applicant has also added dependant claim 20 and respectfully submits that claim 20 is also patentable for reasons analogous to those discussed above.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

_____/Michael C. Jones/
Michael C. Jones
Registration No. 63,266

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 20, 2009